

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 150822Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3733

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR SN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/SINGAPORE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 240354

1. EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO SOUND OUT GOS ON ACCEPTABILITY OF JAN/FEB DATES FOR RESUMPTION OF CONSULTATIONS BUT INFORMAL APPROACH HAS BEEN REBUFFED AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION ON SUBJECT REQUESTED.

2. DURING OCT. 11 CALL ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEP SEC TAN BOON SENG, STAFF MEMBERS OF REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE INQUIRED AS TO USG-GOS BILATERAL PROBLEMS. TAN REPLIED THAT ONLY ISSUE WHICH CAME TO MIND WAS SIA'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN ROUTE TO THE US. IN SUBSEQUENT BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER, EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT PROBLEM LAY NOT IN SIA ROUTE PER SE BUT IN SIA'S INSISTENCE THAT ROUTE BE VIA TOKYO. EMBOFF ALSO NOTED THAT A US DELEGATION WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RESUME CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO END OF 1975 AND THAT WE WOULD BE PROPOSING A JAN/FEB DATE. TAN WAS OBVIOUSLY DISPLEASED AT THIS NEWS, SAYING THAT USG ONCE AGAIN APPEARED TO BE "STALLING" IN SCHEDULING CONSULTATIONS. EMBOFF DENIED THIS AND NOTED HEAVY SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR.

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3. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER GOS WILL INDEED

LET PAN AM OPERATING PERMIT EXPIRE IF CONSULTATIONS ARE NOT
RESUMED THIS YEAR. SIA'S NEED TO PLAN AHEAD, INCLUDING EXPIRA-
TION ON DEC. 1 OF OPTION TO PURCHASE BOEING 747, LEADS US
TO CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS A REAL POSSIBILITY IF GOS BELIEVES THAT
SINCERE EFFORT HAS NOT BEEN MADE TO MEET ITS REQUIREMENTS.
WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO HEAVY WORK LOAD AND SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES
OF US DEL. RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY BE PROVIDED, IF
AT ALL POSSIBLE, WITH AT LEAST ONE PERIOD THIS YEAR WHICH WE
CAN PROPOSE TO GOS. THIS WOULD PUT ONUS FOR DELAY IN RESUMPTION
OF TALKS ON GOS AND MAKE LESS LIKELY ANY UNFAVORABLE ACTION
BY GOS ON PAN AM'S PERMIT IN EVENT CONSULTATIONS DO NOT MATERIALIZE
NOW.
HOLDRIDGE

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